NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND

Fact Sheet No. 9 **December 1995**

Site 9, Chemical Waste Disposal Area
Site 11, Industrial Waste Treatment Plant

at Naval Air Station, North Island

This fact sheet will tell you about...

- Cleanup efforts at Site 9 (chemical waste disposal area) and Site 11 (Industrial Waste Treatment Plant).
- The role of the U.S. Navy in these efforts.
- How you can obtain more information and become more involved in the cleanup activities at the station.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The Navy requests public comments on the work plans prepared for an upcoming environmental cleanup project at Site 9 and Site 11, Naval Air Station (NAS) North Island, San Diego, California. Comments will be accepted during a 30-day period beginning December 11, 1995, and ending January 11, 1996. Written comments should be mailed or faxed to:

Richard G. Mach Jr.
Remedial Project Manager
Code 1821.RM
Southwest Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command
1220 Pacific Highway
San Diego, California 92132-5187
Fax: (619) 532-1242

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) will also be announcing a 30-day public comment period for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document which will state the project's impact on the environment. Notification of this comment period will be made through newspaper advertisement and direct mail. For more information, please contact the DTSC representative listed on the back page.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this fact sheet is to provide information on the status of cleanup activities at Site 9 and Site 11, NAS North Island.

The Navy proposes to carry out an environmental cleanup, classified as a non-time critical removal action under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, at the two sites. Work plans have been written describing what activities will be taken, and which areas and contaminants will be addressed by this removal action. Work plans have been submitted to local and state environmental regulatory agencies for review, and are also available for public review. The Navy seeks input from the community to help in making this removal action a success.

This removal action is an interim measure designed to meet the objective of reducing risk to human health and the environment. The major contaminants of concern are volatile organic compounds (VOCs), such as chlorinated solvents historically used in industrial cleaning processes. Soil is the medium being addressed because it poses the greatest potential risk of exposure to humans.

This removal action is being conducted through the Navy's Installation Restoration (IR) Program. The IR Program is designed to identify and correct problems associated with past management of hazardous substances at military installations.

SITE DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

Site 9 is the chemical waste disposal area located in the southwestern portion of NAS North Island. It was used as a disposal site for liquid wastes (such as solvents, caustics, and acids) from the mid-1940s to late-1970s. Two specific areas where disposal took place have been labelled as: Area 1, measuring 600 feet by 250 feet, and Area 3, measuring 300 feet by 200 feet.

VOCs, semivolatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals have been detected in soil and groundwater at Site 9. VOCs, specifically the chlorinated solvents dichloroethene (DCE), tetrachloroethene (PCE), trichloroethane (TCA), and trichloroethene (TCE), are the most frequent contaminants detected. These chemicals are components of solvents historically used for industrial applications at NAS North Island. Their maximum detected concentrations exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Preliminary Remediation Goals (PRGs) for an industrial setting.

Site 11 is the Industrial Waste Treatment Plant (WTP) located in the center of NAS North Island. It consists of 20 surface impoundments used for disposal of various liquid wastes from the early-1970s to late-1980s. Three specific areas where disposal took place have been labelled as: Area 1, measuring 300 feet by 300 feet; Area 2, measuring 250 feet by 120 feet; and Area 3, measuring 300 feet by 180 feet.

VOCs, SVOCs, petroleum hydrocarbons, and metals have been detected in soil and groundwater at Site 11. DCE, PCE, TCA, and TCE are the most frequent contaminants detected (same as Site 9).

As a result of numerous studies conducted for Site 9 and Site 11 over the past 12 years, an Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) was prepared to analyze various cleanup options and to propose a remediation technology. Reports on these studies are available for public review at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet.

PROPOSED REMOVAL ACTION

Upon completion of the CEQA process, DTSC will either approve or deny the proposed cleanup technology for Site 9 and Site 11. If approved the cleanup technology, recommended in the EE/CA, will be used for this removal action. This technology is soil vapor extraction (SVE). At Site 9, the SVE system will be enhanced by air injection. At Site 11, the SVE system will be enhanced by limited air sparging.

In a SVE process, solvent contaminated soil is cleaned by circulating clean air through the soil to remove the solvents. Solvents in soil are volatilized and carried off by the circulating air which is "sucked" through extraction wells. The extraction wells are similar to groundwater wells except they are specially designed to extract contaminated air instead of groundwater. The air and volatilized solvent mixture is then passed through activated carbon filters to remove the volatilized solvents, thus stopping them from becoming airborne.

Each activated carbon filter has a certain capacity to capture solvents. Before it reaches that capacity, it is regenerated by passing hot steam through it to volatilize and release the captured solvents. The solvent and steam mixture is then cooled. In the cooling process, gaseous solvents are condensed to concentrated liquid forms. Solvents recovered in this process are sent to a permitted hazardous waste treatment facility for recycling.

Air injection involves injecting air into the soil. It is used to enhance SVE treatment by increasing air circulation through the contaminated soil. Air sparging involves injecting air into the groundwater. It is used to enhance SVE treatment by volatilizing and capturing VOCs in the contaminated groundwater in order to minimize re-contamination of treated soil by contaminated groundwater.

Special monitoring devices will be used to ensure that the SVE treatment systems are operating correctly, and that extracted contaminated vapors are being effectively filtered by the activated carbon units.

If the SVE technology is approved, field construction (such as installation of wells and associated piping) will commence in January 1996. The actual SVE treatment systems will be installed in March 1996. It is expected that the treatment systems will be operated from April 1996 to January 1997.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

An Environmental Protection Plan has been prepared to describe the methods proposed to protect the environmental resources at the two sites. The plan provides specific information regarding existing conditions; protection of plant and animal life, and historic and archaeological sites; control of traffic, dust, erosion, surface water runoff, and waste materials; and restoration of the sites.

Except for designated work areas, storage areas, and access routes specifically assigned for use during construction activities, all environmental resources outside the limits of work will be preserved in their present conditions.

Site 9 is located in a restricted access area due to its proximity to the station weapons compound. The site is mostly unpaved with sparse vegetation. There are no residences or sensitive human receptors on or in the vicinity of the site. Efforts are currently ongoing to identify any sensitive plant or animal life inhabiting the site. The site does not have any historic or archaeological significance based on information available from the NAS North Island Resources office.

Site 11 is also located in a restricted access area and is mostly within the confines of the NAS North Island hazardous waste treatment facility. Its surface is covered by pavement or buildings. No residences, sensitive human receptors, sensitive plant and animal life, or significant historic and archaeological sites are on or in the vicinity of Site 11.

No significant traffic impacts are anticipated during this removal action. Truck traffic associated with material deliveries on to NAS North Island is minimal and will be scheduled during off-peak traffic hours.

Generated waste materials anticipated during this removal action will be minimal since the used activated carbon units will be regenerated on site, eliminating the need to transport used activated carbon off site and import new activated carbon.

Wastewater will be treated by the NAS North Island central wastewater treatment facility. Only recovered solvents will need to be taken off site. Due to careful project design to minimize traffic, truck traffic will be limited to one truckload per week from April 1996 to approximately January 1997.

Dust control measures such as covering soil stockpiles, and watering excavation and traffic areas during construction will be implemented to minimize dust emissions. Temporary curbs will be installed to minimize stormwater runon and runoff.

Upon Completion of this removal action, the two sites will be restored to their pre-removal conditions. This will include disassembling the treatment systems, cleaning up construction debris, and planting vegetation as appropriate.

DTSC is currently conducting an Initial Study to determine if the propose project will have negative impacts on the environment. This determination has to be made before DTSC can approve the work plans. Once a proposed determination has been made, the document will be circulated for public review. If the study finds that the project will not have negative impacts on the environment, DTSC will circulate a Negative Declaration. If negative impacts are identified, which cannot be mitigated, an Environmental Impact Report will be prepared.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

A Health and Safety Plan has been prepared to support field operations under this removal

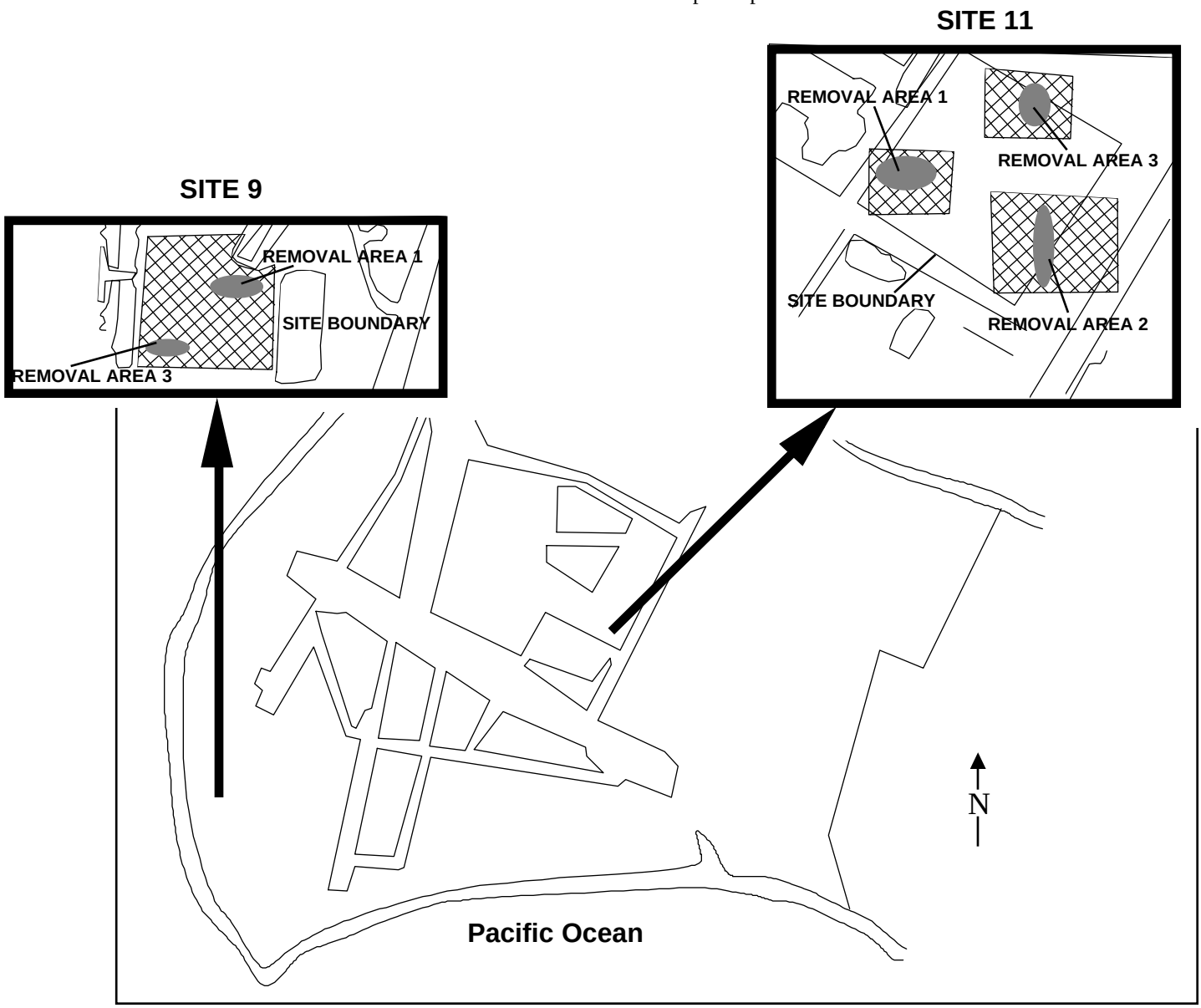
action. The plan includes procedures for personnel and equipment safety, medical assistance, and general safe work practices. All contractors who will be working at the sites are trained in proper health and safety procedures including emergency response and first aid. In addition, all workers are trained on recognizing hazards and handling of the contaminated wastes.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community involvement is an integral part of the IR Program. The Navy aims to inform the community about the environmental cleanup projects associated with the IR Program, and to provide the community with the opportunity to participate in the decision-making processes. This is done primarily through the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB), a community based group that meets monthly with the Navy.

This fact sheet is a part of the continuing effort to keep the public informed of environmental cleanup activities at NAS North Island. Decision making documents such as the EE/CA and Action Memorandum/Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for this removal action were developed and presented to the public for review, recently. In addition, RAB members were invited to participate in a Value Engineering Workshop designed to analyze the functional requirements of this removal action for the purpose of achieving essential functions at the lowest total cost, consistent with the required performance, reliability, quality, and maintainability.

The EE/CA and Action Memorandum/RAP, as well as the work plan for this removal action are available for review at the information repositories listed on page 4 of this fact sheet. The Navy welcomes your interest in its environmental program.



Site 9 and Site 11 Location Map
Non-Time Critical Removal Action
Naval Air Station North Island, San Diego, California

NAVAL AIR STATION NORTH ISLAND

Public Affairs Office, Code OB
PO Box 357033
San Diego, California 92135-7033

Request for Public Comments on
Work Plans for Removal Action at
Site 9 and Site 11

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Environmental reports and correspondence regarding the IR Sites at NAS North Island, including this removal action are available for public review at the following information repositories:

City of Coronado Public Library
640 Orange Avenue
Coronado, California 92118
Contact: Vanessa Gwynne
(619/522-7390
Mon-Tue: 10:00 am - 9:00 pm
Wed-Thurs: 1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Fri-Sat: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Sun: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

NAS North Island Station Library, Building 650
Contact: Sharon Nelson
619/545-8231
Mon-Thurs: 10:00 am - 8:00 pm
Fri-Sat-Sun: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ken Mitchell
Public Affairs Officer, Code OB
Naval Air Station North Island
P.O. Box 357033
San Diego, California 92135-7033
(619) 545-8167
(618) 545-0182 (Fax)

or
Marsha Mingay
Public Participation Specialist
Department of Toxic Substances Control
245 W. Broadway, Suite 425
Long Beach, CA 90802
(310) 590-4881

MAILING LIST

If you did not receive this fact sheet in the mail, then you are not on our mailing list. If you wish to be placed on the NAS North Island IR Program mailing list, want to correct your address, or are interested in the RAB, please complete this form, detach, and mail or fax to:

Ken Mitchell
Public Affairs Officer, Code OB
Naval Air Station, North Island
P.O. Box 357033
San Diego, California 92135-7033
619) 545-8167
(618) 545-0182 (Fax)

Name: _____
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New Address ___ Address Correction _____ Interest in RAB ____


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